

STATE CAPITOL  
P.O. BOX 942849  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0073  
(916) 319-2073  
FAX (916) 319-2173

WEBSITE  
WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/HARKEY

# Assembly California Legislature



**DIANE L. HARKEY**  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, SEVENTY-THIRD DISTRICT

**COMMITTEES**  
VICE CHAIR: APPROPRIATIONS  
BANKING AND FINANCE  
BUDGET  
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES, RETIREMENT  
AND SOCIAL SECURITY  
REVENUE AND TAXATION

FD 35724

234080

ENTERED

Office of Proceedings

April 15, 2013

Part of

Public Record

April 9, 2013

Cynthia Brown  
Chief, Section of Administration  
Office of Proceedings  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0111

Dear Ms. Brown,

I am writing to request that the Surface Transportation Board (STB) provide notice to my office, as an elected state official with fiduciary responsibilities, if the California High-Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) requests any action from STB, including any application or exemption request for California's High-Speed Rail project. I am also requesting notice of any future submissions from CHSRA so that a response may be filed.

As you know, CHSRA has filed a request for exemption from the construction permit requirement for its planned construction in the Central Valley, while also filing a motion to dismiss, in effect arguing that STB does not have jurisdiction because a 29 mile segment from Merced to Fresno will not affect interstate commerce.

The larger issue here for California is the massive disruption that could occur to a number of counties and communities should the project be built "as is" under current plans. The 114 mile segment of track CHSRA plans to build will dissect valuable, productive farmland, most of which is statutorily protected through State preservation contracts and classified by USDA as important or prime agricultural land, as noted by the Kings County Board of Supervisors.

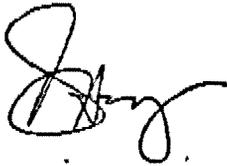
Madera County, and in particular the City of Chowchilla and the Chowchilla Water District (CWD), will face adverse impacts if CHSRA continues with its current route without making the project route compatible with existing infrastructure to the fullest extent possible.

The San Joaquin Valley is an area with a rich agricultural history that provides the majority of fruits, nuts and vegetables to consumers in the United States. With respect to

Chowchilla, CWD consists of approximately 80,000 acres, all within the city boundaries. This project presents the potential for real harm to CWD, the City of Chowchilla, and California's biggest industry in a time of great economic uncertainty and high unemployment, particularly in the Central Valley.

To my knowledge, CHSRA has not applied or received the required permit it needs from STB. In light of this, I respectfully request to be notified if and when this occurs. As a fiscal steward for the state of California, I am obligated to ensure that our state's largest industry is not adversely affected by the construction of a high-speed rail line through the Central Valley.

Sincerely,



Diane Harkey  
Assemblywoman, 73<sup>rd</sup> District

cc: Dan Maddelena, Board of Directors, Chowchilla Water District  
Michael Mandala, Board of Directors, Chowchilla Water District  
Vince Taylor, Board of Directors, Chowchilla Water District  
Kole M. Upton, Board of Directors, Chowchilla Water District  
Mark Wolfshorndl, Board of Directors, Chowchilla Water District